

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 19, 2005. Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11, 13 to 15, 17, 19 and 21 remain in the application, with Claims 16, 18 and 20 having been canceled. Claims 1, 6 and 11 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 to 6, 9 to 11 and 14 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,821,937 (Tonelli) in view of Microsoft Windows NT screen dumps, and Claims 3, 8 and 13 were rejected under § 103(a) over Tonelli in view of screen dumps and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,232,973 (Dow). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns displaying updated configuration information of a network device next to a displayed icon of the device. According to the invention, a search is performed to acquire device information for each of various image processing devices on the network. Configuration information concerning the plurality of devices is recorded based on the acquired device information. Based on the recorded configuration information, it is recognized whether or not the settings information has been updated, and if so, the updated settings information is displayed in proximity to an icon selected by a user from among displayed icons. Thus, because the device information is acquired and the configuration information is recorded, the user can be kept up to date with any changes in the configuration of the device since a recognition is performed to determine whether or not the configuration information has been updated.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a network terminal apparatus, comprising management means for managing an identifier of

each image processing function and configuration information concerning a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function as settings information, search means for acquiring, via a network, device information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network, recording means for recording the configuration information concerning the plurality of image processing devices, based on the device information acquired by the search means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function and the configuration information recorded by the recording means, recognition means for recognizing whether or not the settings information has been updated, based on the configuration information recorded by the recording means, and settings information display means for displaying updated settings information in proximity to a selected icon in a case where the settings information has been updated in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the displayed icons.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6 and 11, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of recording configuration information concerning a plurality of image processing devices, based on acquired device information, recognizing whether or not settings information has been updated, based on the recorded configuration information, and displaying updated settings information in proximity to a selected icon in a case where the settings information has been updated in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among displayed icons.

Tonelli is merely seen to disclose a technique for acquiring device information, such as a MAC address and IP address from devices and then displaying the address on a screen. As readily admitted in the Office Action, Tonelli fails to disclose or to suggest displaying updated settings information in proximity to a selected icon in a case where the settings information has been updated in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among displayed icons. However, the Office Action cites an MS Win screen dump as allegedly making up for Tonelli's deficiencies.

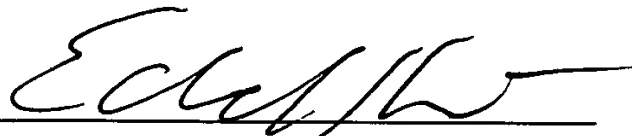
The MS Win screen dump is merely seen to disclose that, once a user opens a "Printers" folder, and the user clicks on an icon for printer to display a pull-down menu, the user then selects "Properties" from the pull-down menu to have static properties of the printer displayed in a new window. Thus, the information depicted in the MS Win screen dumps is merely static configuration information of the printer, but there is no way to tell whether or not the information is updated information. Rather, it appears that the information is merely that which has been stored in the windows application when the printer was installed, but there is no indication that the displayed information is updated information. Thus, the MS Win screen dump is not seen to add anything to overcome Tonelli's deficiencies.

In view of the foregoing, amended independent Claims 1, 6 and 11, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Kmett', written over a horizontal line.

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